

The Watering Hole
California Legacy Project's Online Newsletter
Winter Update

Like leaves falling from the deciduous trees last fall, we dropped our old name, CCRISP, and have sprouted the much fresher name: California Legacy Project. We remain a resource conservation strategy, creating state-of-the-art tools and improved information that will help all levels of government and the public identify more effective and efficient actions for conserving California's natural resources and working landscapes.

Project Development:

As part of our resource assessment efforts, the Legacy Project is identifying key criteria (or decision factors) for terrestrial biodiversity, aquatic biodiversity and watershed values, agricultural croplands, grazing lands, forests, rural recreational lands, and urban open space. Agency and outside experts identified initial criteria in workshops held last fall. We have also collected existing criteria that Departments and Conservancies use in prioritizing their acquisitions and outlined them in our First Annual Conservation Priorities report submitted to the Legislature this January.

Spotlight on Conservation Workshops

Citizens representing a broad and diverse group of interests will be invited by the Legacy Project to nine Spotlight on Conservation Regional Workshops throughout the state in the Spring and Summer of 2002. Along with discussions on regional conservation priorities and investment actions, these workshops will help to refine and gain some agreement on the above mentioned assessment criteria. Participants will also help us identify local and regional conservation planning efforts to ensure that the project builds on existing efforts and promotes partnership opportunities. Information from these workshops will help guide what data will be included in the tools that the Legacy Project will create to assist decision makers in prioritizing conservation options.

Data Activities

The Legacy Project has partnered in several interagency efforts for statewide data updating. An updated vegetation map has been completed for most of the state and initial agreements on standards for consistent, finer resolution mapping has been reached. We held a workshop for state, federal, and NGO wetland scientists and managers on the creation of statewide wetlands inventory and coverage. We have nearly completed a draft statewide map of federal and state ownerships and management. The Project has also been cataloging existing and emerging conservation plans by federal, state, and local agencies, and nonprofit organizations.

The Legacy Project aims to provide a web-based system that allow for easy access to conservation related data over the next year. We have been developing a partnership with ESRI, computer mapping experts, to create this system.

Resource Monitoring and Stewardship

Rainer Hoenicke joined our team last fall and is leading our Resource Trends, Monitoring and Assessment effort. An interagency monitoring and assessment workgroup has been formed to explore strategies for data sharing that could lead to a more comprehensive assessment of the health and condition of California's natural resources and how to improve resource health.

The Legacy Project will soon engage a private lands stewardship expert to work with departments and landowners to develop an array of private land stewardship programs.

Advisory Committees

In September representatives from a broad range of interests gathered for the first Legacy Project Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting. This group brings an enormous amount of expertise to bear on the successful development of the Project. A second meeting was held in January with special breakout sessions on private land stewardship programs, the Spotlight on Conservation Regional Workshops, Monitoring and Benchmarks, and the Project's scope of work. The Legacy Project has also brought together state and federal agencies, and NGOs, in our Management Advisory Committee. At their first meeting this group emerged as an important forum for addressing common data and mapping needs, and improving data sharing and updating systems.

Stay Tuned and Get In Touch

In the fall of 2002, all of these elements will begin to come together to create easy-to-use tools that will assist in identifying conservation priorities. For additional updates on any of our efforts check our web page at <http://legacy.ca.gov>.

We would like to keep in touch with you and hear your input on the project. Our web page is interactive with a link for you to email us your comments, concerns or suggestions. We also need your help in our effort mentioned above to catalogue existing conservation plans. Please contact Marc Hoshovsky at (916) 322-2446 or mhoshovs@dfg.ca.gov to check that we have identified your organization's plan.

Our Partners

Representative from the following organizations regularly advise Legacy Project staff through our standing Management and Stakeholder Advisory Committees:

Federal Agencies- National Marine Fisheries Service, National Park Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Secretary of Defense

State Agencies- Baldwin Hills Conservancy, CA Biodiversity Council Science Coordinating Committee, CA Department of Conservation, CA Department of Fish and Game, CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, CA Department of Parks and Recreation, CA Department of Water Resources, CA State Coastal Conservancy, CA Wildlife Conservation Board, Cal/Environmental Protection Agency, CALFED, Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy, CA Coastal Conservancy, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Range Management Advisory Committee, Resource Agency Watersheds Program, Resource Conservation Districts, San Gabriel Rivers and

Mountains Conservancy, San Joaquin River Conservancy, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Tahoe Conservancy

Local Agencies- California State Association of Counties, Contra Costa County's Community Development Department, County of Kern's Planning Department, County of San Luis Obispo's Department of Permit and Resource Management, County of Sonoma's Permit and Resource Management Department, Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Regional Council of Rural Counties, San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego County Board of Supervisors.

Non-Profit Organizations- American Farmland Trust, Bay Area Open Space Council, Cal Trout, California Cattleman's Association, California Center for Land Recycling, California Environmental Dialogue, California Farm Bureau Federation, California Indian Basket Weavers Association, California Native Plant Society, California Rangeland Trust, California Wilderness Coalition, California Wine Growers, Defenders of Wildlife, Endangered Habitats League, Environment NOW, Hills for Everyone, Land Trust Alliance, League of California Cities, National Audubon Society- California, Natural Resources Defense Council, Pacific Forest Trust, Planning and Conservation League, Real Tool Box, Resource Landowner Coalition, Riparian Habitat Joint Venture, Sierra Business Council, Sierra Club of California, South Coast Wildlands Project, The Great Valley Center, The Nature Conservancy, The Wild Lands Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, United Farm Workers, Urban Land Institute

Educational Institutions- The National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis at the University of California, Santa Barbara, UC Davis Extension Land Use and Natural Resources

Foundations- Hewlett Foundation, Packard Foundation

Tribal Groups- Hoopa Valley Tribal Council, Tule River Tribal Council

Private Companies- Collins Pine Company, The Irvine Company